

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Directed by Michael Harris

Music for Advent and Christmas

Tuesday 11th December 2007 7.30pm

St Margaret of Scotland
Scottish Episcopal Church,
Easter Road, Edinburgh

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Director and organist: Michael Harris

THIS IS THE TRUTH SENT FROM ABOVE	ENGLISH TRAD ARR R VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
GABRIEL'S MESSAGE	BASQUE ARR DAVID WILLCOCKS
ADAM LAY YBOUNDED	BORIS ORD
ORGAN: PRELUDE IN C (BWV547)	J S BACH
VIRGA JESSE FLORUIT	ANTON BRUCKNER
THE BLESSED SON OF GOD	R VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
IN DULCI JUBILO	OLD GERMAN ARR R L PEARSALL
ORGAN: NOEL SUISSE	LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN
FROHLOCKET, IHR VÖLKER AUF ERDEN	FELIX BARTHOLDY MENDELSSOHN
INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY	POLISH ARR DAVID WILLCOCKS
PAST THREE O'CLOCK	TRAD HARM CHARLES WOOD
TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY	ENGLISH TRAD ARR DAVID WILLCOCKS
ORGAN: TOCCATA	THÉODORE DUBOIS
QUEM PASTORES LAUDAVERE	14TH-CENT GERMAN ARR JOHN RUTTER
THE HOLLY AND THE IVY	ENGLISH TRAD ARR H WALFORD DAVIES
SILENT NIGHT	FRANZ GRUBER ARR DAVID WILLCOCKS
DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH	16TH-CENT FRENCH ARR CHARLES WOOD

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Since its formation in 1968, the **Scottish Chamber Choir** has performed throughout Scotland and Northern England to great acclaim. Each season the choir presents four concerts in Edinburgh, climaxing with an appearance at the Festival Fringe. These are usually supplemented by a Christmas concert and guest appearances at local Music Societies and Festivals throughout the year, keeping members quite busy!

The choir sings both shorter items from the chamber choir repertoire and more extended works, such as the Bach *St John Passion* and *Mass in B minor*. Whilst some concerts are given *a cappella*, at others we are joined by a variety of instrumental forces, making possible an exceptional freedom of programming and great interest for both participants and audience.

The choir's hallmark has always been its breadth of repertoire, encompassing a wide range of music from the 16th century to the present day, with music by living composers featuring in programmes during most seasons. Often there is a thread linking a series of concerts, encouraging regular attendance. The highly successful and critically praised Silver Jubilee season, for example, concentrated on 20th century British music, and was recognised by an Enterprise Award from the Performing Rights Society – one of only three such awards in Scotland.

From time to time, vacancies occur in all sections of the choir. Any singer interested in obtaining further details should contact Bill Wood, the President, by phone on 0131 339 7663 or by email at info@scottishchamberchoir.org.uk. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings in the Ian Tomlin School of Music at Napier University's Craighouse campus.

Michael Harris received his earliest musical education as a chorister of Gloucester Cathedral. He was Organ Scholar of St Peter's College, Oxford, and continued his studies at the Royal College of Music. Michael has been Organist and Master of the Music of St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, since November 1996; he is also a Lecturer at the Ian Tomlin School of Music in Napier University, Edinburgh. Prior to moving to Edinburgh he held posts as Sub-Organist of Leeds Parish Church and Assistant Organist of Canterbury Cathedral.

As Organist of St Giles' Cathedral he hosts many organ concerts on the famous Rieger organ (built in 1992) and his work has involved him in numerous recordings and broadcasts, both for Television and Radio. Under his direction the Cathedral Choir has visited the USA and Greece, and most recently, in October 2006, they undertook a short tour of southern France.

His solo recordings include *The Organ at St Giles'*, and he has directed the Cathedral Choir in a number of CD recordings, including *An Edinburgh Celebration* to mark their first tour of the USA in Autumn 2004.

Elsewhere Michael has given recitals at many venues in Germany, Belgium, Italy and the USA, as well as in the UK. Since 1998 he has been Musical Director of the Scottish Chamber Choir. He is also much involved in organ and choral education and is Director of the Edinburgh Organ Academy, an international annual Springtime organ course founded in 1998.

Keep in touch with the Scottish Chamber Choir – visit our web site at www.scottishchamberchoir.org.uk.

The Scottish Chamber Choir is registered with OSCR ,
the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator,
as Scottish Charity No. SC013058
(details at <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>)